with its preference for softening of interest rates and provision for adequate liquidity to meet credit growth and support investment demand. This is expected to reinforce demand for a wide variety of consumer durables and capital goods in particular.

Deeper economic ties between India and Germany

490. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Germany is very keen to develop deeper economic ties with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the annual trade between India and Germany during the last three years; year-wise and sector-wise; and

(d) the reasons behind Germany choosing India, instead of China and South Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During high level interactions between India and Germany, both sides had expressed interest in continuing and expanding bilateral economic ties including trade & commercial relations.

(c) Annual trade level beween India and Germany during the last three years is as under:

Year	Bilateral trade between India and Germany (US$/Million)
2000-01	3633.10
2001-02	3816.46
2002-03	4437.77

Indo-German bilateral trade is concentrated in the sectors of textiles/ clothings, machinery/instruments, leather goods, project goods, electrical/electronic goods, transport equipments etc.

(d) India and Germany have a healthy trade relationship. There is no indication that Germany is choosing India instead of China or South Africa.